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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MUSCAT 000176

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [KSAC](#) [KHLs](#) [MU](#) [EAC](#)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY MUSCAT EAC - 02/08/2006

REF: MUSCAT 0146

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission William R. Stewart.  
Reason: 1.4(c)(d).

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Summary  
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1. (SBU) The Ambassador chaired a meeting of the core Emergency Action Committee (EAC) on February 8 to review the Embassy's security posture prior to the local weekend. Members noted no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting, and agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and force protection condition (FPCON) remain appropriate. End Summary.

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Local Security Environment  
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2. (SBU) On February 8, the Ambassador chaired a meeting of the core EAC to review the Embassy's security posture prior to the local weekend. The meeting opened with a discussion of the local security situation, which the EAC continued to characterize as stable. Likewise, the EAC noted no/no new threat reporting specific to Oman.

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Reaction to Danish Publication: Follow-Up  
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3. (C) The EAC did, however, follow-up on the anti-European incidents occurring worldwide related to the Danish publication, and recent European republications, of a caricature of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed. EAC Members noted that while the boycott of Danish products by Omani consumers continues, isolated talk of demonstrations has not materialized beyond a second small, peaceful, carefully supervised gathering, this time of female students, on the campus of Sultan Qaboos University - located some thirty kilometers outside Muscat (reftel). NOTE: Denmark has no diplomatic presence in Oman. END NOTE.

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Avian Influenza  
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4. (SBU) The EAC also discussed a recent Embassy-wide Avian Influenza (AI) briefing, led by the Regional Medical Manager and Regional Medical Officer in conjunction with their joint visit to Muscat. Very well attended, the February 5 briefing provided an overview of AI, to include a review of recent outbreaks, as well as the Department's plans and efforts to address the virus. During the course of the briefing, the Embassy's Economic/Commercial Officer also provided an update on the status of the Omani government's contingency planning efforts. Members of the EAC went on to discuss recent worldwide cases, notably infected falcons reported in neighboring Saudi Arabia, but agreed that the isolated, non animal-to-human case had not crossed established tripwires.

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Upcoming Events and Continued Vigilance  
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5. (SBU) Prior to concluding the meeting, RSO noted that the security office continues coordinating Royal Oman Police coverage for numerous upcoming community events, namely a series of Bluegrass music concerts scheduled for February 12-13. RSO also took the opportunity to reiterate to members of the EAC that they must continue reinforcing to both their staffs and family members the need for vigilance regarding all aspects of personal security - to include maintaining a low profile, and remaining unpredictable and situationally aware. RSO further re-emphasized the importance of immediately reporting all/all suspicious activity or security-related incidents to Post One.

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EAC Conclusion

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16. (S/NF) The EAC concluded that there have been no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting held on February 4 (reftel). Accordingly, members agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and FPCON remain appropriate. Embassy Muscat remains acutely aware of the need to monitor both the regional and local security and threat environments, and is prepared to take the necessary countermeasures should changes to either occur. AMB, DCM, P/E, MGT, RSO, ARSO, SIMO, CONS, DAO, OMC (USDR), ECA (USCENTAF), and Duty Officer participated in the meeting.  
BALTIMORE